

COMMUTING PROFILE

OZARK REGION

MARCH 2025

Overview

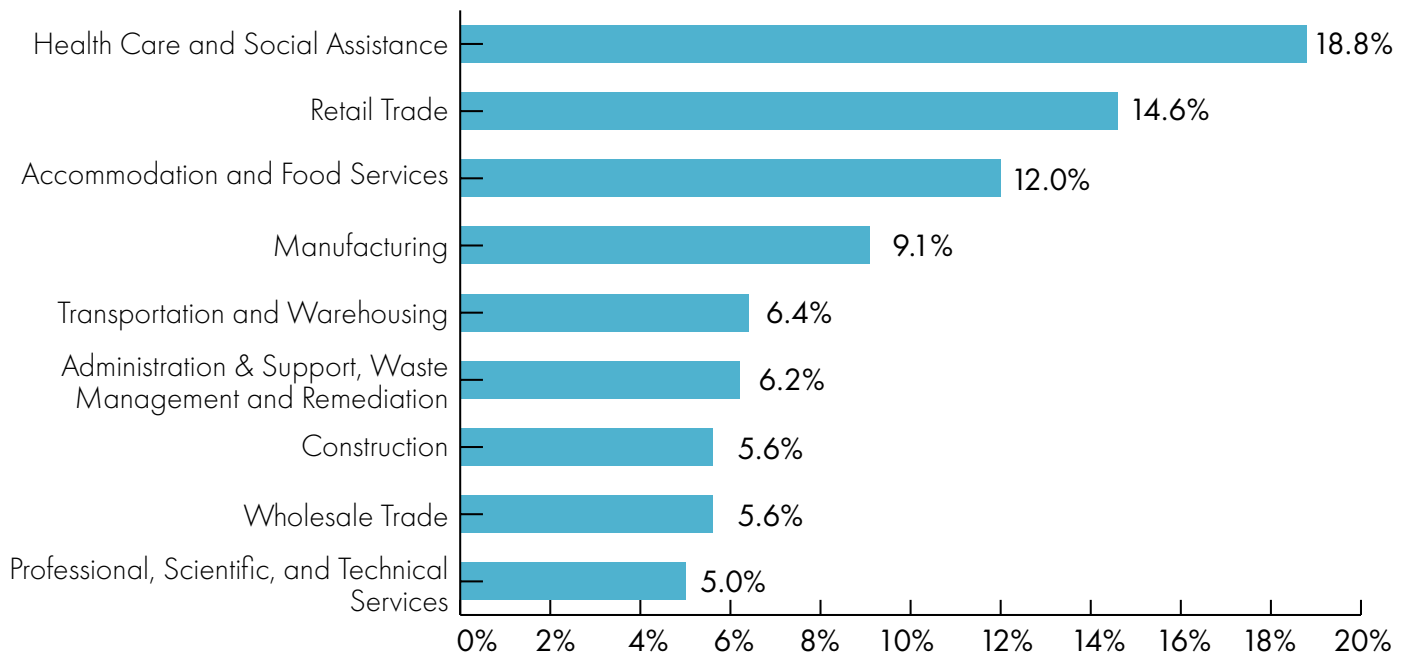
The Ozark Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of seven counties, including Greene, which is home to the region's largest city (Springfield). The top industry in the Ozark region is *Health Care and Social Assistance*, which accounts for 18.8 percent of the region's employment. In 2022, the Ozark WDA employed 9.3 percent of Missouri's workforce. Nearly half (49%) of workers in the region were aged 30 to 54. Workers aged 29 or younger were 28.6 percent of the workforce and those 55 or older were 22.4 percent. In 2022, 43.7 percent of workers in the Ozark WDA earned more than \$3,333 per month. Of the remaining workers, 18 percent earned \$1,250 per month or less and 38.2 percent earned between \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month. In 2022, there were more men (51.6%) than women (48.4%) in the Ozark WDA workforce.

Over half (51%) of employees living in the Ozark WDA commuted fewer than 10 miles to work, while 32.1 percent commuted 10 to 50 miles to work and 16.9 percent commuted more than 50 miles.

Industry

Health Care and Social Assistance was the largest employing industry in the region at 39,499 jobs (18.8% of total jobs in the region). *Retail Trade; Accommodation and Food Services; Manufacturing; Transportation and Warehousing; and Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation* were other major industry sectors having at least 6 percent of the region's employment share. Springfield, Branson, and Ozark were the top cities for employment in the Ozark WDA.

Top Ozark WDA Industry - Employment Percentage



Where the Ozark Labor Force Works and Lives

Of the 210,039 workers employed in the Ozark WDA in 2022, 75.2 percent commuted to work from within the region. The remainder (24.8%) commuted into Ozark WDA from homes outside of the region.

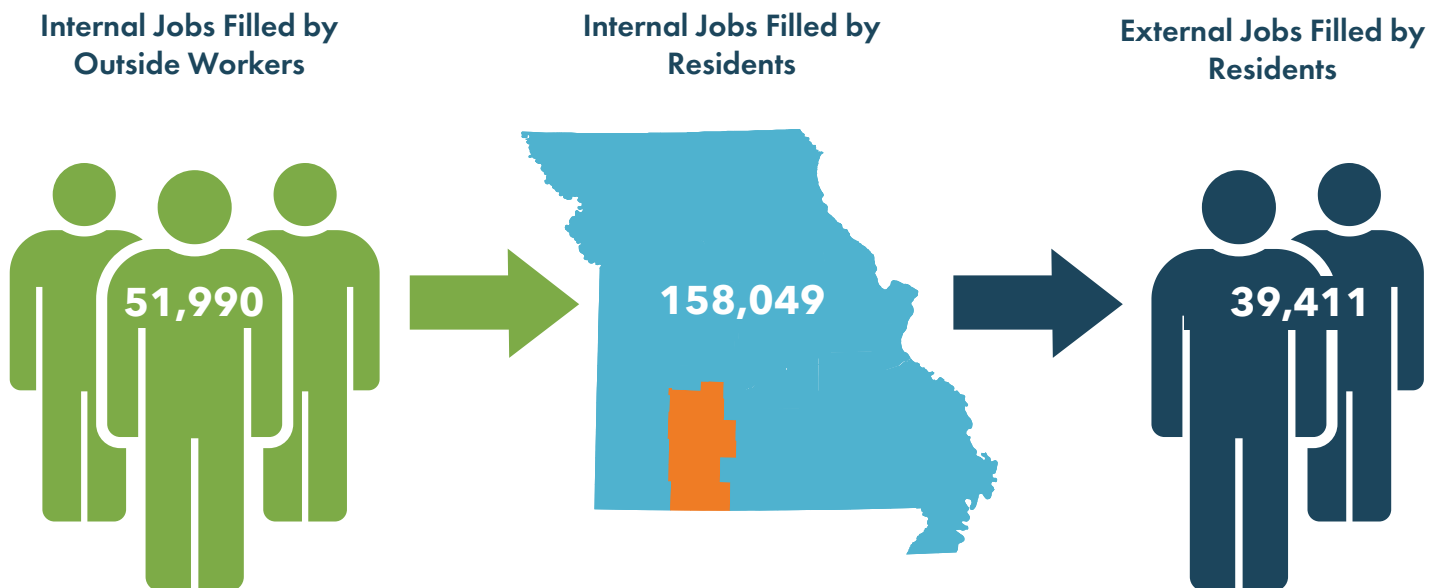
Description	2022	
	Count	Share
Ozark WDA Labor Market Size		
Employed in the Ozark WDA	210,039	100.0%
Living in the Ozark WDA	197,460	94.0%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	12,579	-
In-Area Labor Force Efficiency		
Living in the Ozark WDA	197,460	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Ozark WDA	158,049	80.0%
Living in the Ozark WDA but Employed Outside	39,411	20.0%
In-Area Employment Efficiency		
Employed in the Ozark WDA	210,039	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Ozark WDA	158,049	75.2%
Employed in the Ozark WDA but Living Outside	51,990	24.8%

Of the region's residents who are in the workforce, 20 percent, or 39,411, commuted to jobs outside of the region. The Ozark WDA attracted 51,990 workers from outside of the region. About 158,000 Ozark WDA residents lived and worked in the region.

The top five counties where Ozark WDA workers resided (in descending order) were Greene, Christian, Taney, Webster, and Stone. Greene County accounted for 41.7 percent of the region's workforce in 2022.

Inflow/Outflow

Overall, 197,460 employees lived in the Ozark WDA and 210,039 workers were employed in the region, resulting in a net inflow of 12,579 workers into the region.



The following table shows the worker composition for the job inflow and outflow groups as well as worker characteristics of the interior job flow. Of the 158,049 individuals who lived and worked in the region, 27.4 percent were aged 29 years or younger, 49.8 percent were aged 30 to 54 years, and 22.8 percent were aged 55 years or older. Nearly 60 percent worked in the Services industry.

Ozark WDA Description	2022	
	Count	Share
Outflow Job Characteristics		
External Jobs Filled by Residents	39,411	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	10,988	27.9%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	19,173	48.6%
Workers Aged 55 or older	9,250	23.5%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	7,682	19.5%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	13,419	34.0%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	18,310	46.5%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	6,879	17.5%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	13,531	34.3%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	19,001	48.2%
Inflow Job Characteristics		
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	51,990	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	16,686	32.1%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	24,282	46.7%
Workers Aged 55 or older	11,022	21.2%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	11,180	21.5%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	19,576	37.7%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	21,234	40.8%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	6,340	12.2%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	18,017	34.7%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	27,633	53.2%
Interior Flow Job Characteristics		
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	158,049	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	43,302	27.4%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	78,711	49.8%
Workers Aged 55 or older	36,036	22.8%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	26,713	16.9%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	60,742	38.4%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	70,594	44.7%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	25,136	15.9%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	38,238	24.2%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	94,675	59.9%

Commuter Pattern

The top 10 counties where Ozark WDA residents worked (in descending order) were Greene, Taney, Christian, Webster, Polk, Stone, St. Louis, Jackson, Jasper, and Barry. All but Greene and Taney counties had at least half of their residents commuting outside their county of residence for work.

The table below indicates that many workers commuted to another county for employment. Larger cities, such as Springfield and Branson, attracted workers from the surrounding counties. The counties containing these cities also had a lower percentage of workers who left the county to find work. The Ozark WDA has access to Interstate 44 and U.S. Highway 65, which improves the ability of Ozark Region residents to commute to their workplace.

Ozark WDA	
Percent of Employees Working Outside of Home County	
Christian	83%
Dallas	88%
Greene	25%
Polk	72%
Stone	80%
Taney	44%
Webster	79%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES), (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2022*), URL: <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>

**2022 is the latest year for which LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (commuting data) is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. To maintain the consistency of data in this report, all relevant data used is also from 2022, although later data for some data points was available.*

This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.